

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1587

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRASILIA 728

EXDIS

PLEASE PASS AMBASSADOR CRIMMINS

E.O. 11652: XGDS

TAGS: OVIP, BR

SUBJECT: ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S VISIT

REF: LOW-TUCH TELECOM JANUARY 30

1. I CALLED ON FOREIGN MINISTRY SECRETARY GENERAL CARVALHO E SILVA THIS AFTERNOON IN REGARD TO ASSISTANT SECRETARY KUBISCH'S PROPOSED VISIT FEBRUARY 12. (HE CALLED ME BACK LATER AND CONFIRMED THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WILL BE VERY PLEASED RECEIVE MR. KUBISCH DURING MORNING FEB. 12 WITH EXACT HOUR TO BE CONFIRMED LATER.)

2. IN ANSWER TO QUESTION AS TO WHETHER WE WERE GOING TO MAKE VISIT PUBLIC, I STATED THAT WE WOULD HAVE A PUBLIC POSITION LATER SINCE SUCH A VISIT COULD HARDLY BE KEPT QUIET AND THAT I WOULD CONVEY IT TO HIM AS SOON AS WE RECEIVED IT.

3. IN DISCUSSION OF PREPARATIONS FOR MEXICO MEETING, CARVALHO E SILVA ALSO EXPRESSED GOB STRONG PREFERENCE FOR INFORMAL, CLOSED SESSIONS AFTER PUBLIC OPENING MEETING. HE ASKED WHAT THE SECRETARY'S VIEWS WERE REGARDING A FINAL DOCUMENT, STATING GOB DOUBTS THAT ANY USEFUL DOCUMENT COULD BE DRAFTED WHICH DID NOT REPRESENT LOWEST COMMON DENOMINATOR AND WAS NOT MERELY SERIES OF CONFIDENTIAL

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PLATITUDES. THEIR PREFERENCE IS FOR NO RPT NO DOCUMENT AT ALL AS WELL AS FOR NO DETAILED RECORD OF STATEMENTS MADE DURING CONFERENCE. IF IT WERE POSSIBLE TO CONVEY SECRETARY'S VIEWS IN THIS REGARD WHEN ASSISTANT SECRETARY

KUBISCH IS HERE OR BEFORE, GOB WOULD BE GRATEFUL SINCE OUR POSITION WILL PROBABLY INFLUENCE THEIRS.

4. CARVALHO E SILVA STATED THEY HAVE BEEN WRESTLING WITH PROBLEM OF HOW EIGHT AGENDA ITEMS SHOULD BE PRESENTED BUT HAVE COME TO NO RPT NO CONCLUSION AS TO BEST METHOD OF PROCEDURE. THEY ARE PLANNING TO WAIT UNTIL THE PREPARATORY MEETING AT WHICH AMB. MACIEL WILL REPRESENT GOB IN WHOSE ABILITY TO MANAGE SUCH THINGS, SECRETARY GENERAL STATED, GOB HAS CONFIDENCE.

5. WE BELIEVE ASSISTANT SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL BE MOST OPPORTUNE BOTH FROM OUR AND BRAZILIAN POINTS OF VIEW SINCE WE DETECT A NOTE OF SCEPTICISM AND "DEJA VU" ON GOB'S PART VIS-A-VIS MEXICO CONFERENCE. IN INFORMAL CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS, WORKING LEVEL OFFICIALS IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY HAVE EXPRESSED STRONG RESERVATIONS ABOUT THE MEETING. ON THE BASIS OF THE PREPARATIONS MADE TO DATE, THEY ARE FEARFUL THAT THE MEETING WILL DEGENERATE INTO A "TRADITIONAL EXCHANGE" OF COMPLAINTS, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE ECONOMIC AREA. EMBASSY OFFICERS RESPONDED THAT WE MUST MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO AVOID SUCH A SITUATION WHICH WOULD INDEED BE DAMAGING, THAT THE MEETING DOES REPRESENT A UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY, AND THAT WE ARE SEEKING FRANK DIALOGUE ON THE BROAD INTERNATIONAL ISSUES WHICH HAVE AN IMPACT ON ALL OF US. NEVERTHELESS, THEIR FEELINGS PERSIST, WE BELIEVE, AND MR. KUBISCH WILL HAVE GOOD OPPORTUNITY TO EXPLAIN OUR VIEWS REGARDING AGENDA ITEMS AS WELL AS GENERAL FORMAT OF MEETING WITH THE EXPECTATION THAT THESE VIEWS WILL FIND SYMPATHETIC RECEPTION.
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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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